

Next Meeting: October 1, 2003

10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 4, 2003, Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Kathleen Clegg, Patt Clement, Pansy Coleman, Cheryl Ervin, Janice Fialka, Glenda Hammond (for Elaine High), Ric Hogerheide, Nancy Jackson, Jill Jacobs, Tiffiany Leischner (for Patricia Keller), Brenda Kotsis, Shari Krishnan, Jim Kubaiko, Peggy McNeilly, Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer, Sue Rabidoux, Debs Roush, Steve Schwartz, Jeff Siegel, Larry Simpson, Don Trap, Laurie VanderPloeg, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels
Ex-Officio members: Lynn Boza, Doug Nurenberg, Mark Larson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Ginny Palubin, Deb Russell, Deborah Smith, Colette Ward

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Monica Butler, Fran Loose, Amanda Whitehead

Guests: Linda Keway, Sandi Laham, Marge Joslin, Patty Nowak, Anne Richardson, Michelle Robinson, Roberta Stanley

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shari Krishnan.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

XI. Action Items is moved to follow Public Comment.

Information and Action Items will address the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities first, followed by reviewing the proposed Inclusive Education Position Statement.

VII. Chairperson's Report is moved to follow the Committee Reports.

X.A. Progress of Autism Definition Workgroup will not be considered an information item, but will be addressed in the State Department Report.

The agenda of the June 4, 2003, meeting was considered. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Brenda Kotsis, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the May 7, 2003, meeting were considered. Cheryl Ervin moved, seconded by Steve Wessels, to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Chairperson's Report – Shari Krishnan

Shari narrated a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the accomplishments of SEAC for the year.

2002-2003 State Department Report – Jacquelyn Thompson

Jacquelyn Thompson, Larry Simpson, and Shari Krishnan attended the Annual OSEP Leadership Conference in Washington DC. Jacquelyn said that almost all federal meetings on legislation try to program for a variety of issues, then ask states to bring a team of people to address them. This conference was no exception.

At the conference, there was a rollout on Continuous Improvement Monitoring changing to Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System. Data (No Child Left Behind [NCLB], district performance data, state performance data) on a number of key indicators becomes the marker of state status. Jacquelyn outlined the goal of examining the quality and integrity of the state's data system and focusing efforts on those key indicators. Focus will also be placed on issues in those schools identified as under-performing or in improvement status under NCLB.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) '97, state advisory panels are required to have 51% of their members be either persons with a disability or parents of a person with a disability. Somewhere in the last two years, the SEAC got off the rotation as outlined on the schedule put in place by the operations subcommittee in 1999. The requirement is met for the '03-'04 term, however, for the '04-'05 term, the Department will contact those organizations who are off rotation to request they appoint a defined member.

Jacquelyn attended the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) spring board meeting last weekend. NASDSE is sending a recommendation to the Senate on the issue of highly qualified special education teachers, adding a component relative to access to content expertise. In addition, there are continued concerns at NASDSE about assessment accommodations and the lack of universality across the country.

Fran Loose discussed the upcoming Institute for Newer Teachers taking place later this month in Grand Rapids. The goal of the institute is to support teachers primarily in their first five years of special education work. There are some State Improvement Grant scholarships available. Faxed applications to attend are encouraged (517-336-4013). The official deadline is Friday, June 6.

Fran reported that the second Personnel Development (PD) Collaborative was a success. The PD Collaborative Three is currently being planned for next year.

Sandi Laham reported that the autism definition group is still dialoguing about the definition. Everyone in the group is realizing that how autism is defined will determine who is eligible. Anne Richardson mentioned that the people are a very positive, encouraging group. David Brock announced a 2200-piece mailing went out this week containing the material that the SEAC reviewed this year regarding policies and procedures for special education. These eleven documents went through the public comment and the approval process. SEAC members were given their packets at the meeting.

The Department has been working on an issue called Maintenance of Fiscal Effort. A memo was sent on May 23 showing districts how to calculate the maintenance of effort, what some of the exceptions are, and some ways to help most districts stay within the guidelines. The content of the memo will be presented at the June MAASE meeting.

David outlined some proposed upcoming rule changes.

State Board Meeting Report – Jacquelyn Thompson

At the June Board meeting, the leadership of SEAC, Shari Krishnan and Steve Wessels, will make a presentation on the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities and the proposed Inclusive Education Position Statement.

Two grants are up for renewal. The first is for Parent Support and Education under IDEA. Jacquelyn explained that historically the Department provided some IDEA discretionary funds for parent training, information, and support. Five years ago, the goal was to network parents so if a parent needed support, they didn't have to call several different places to get help. CAUSE, the Arc Michigan, and Project PERFORM were part of a coalition to that end. After five years, it's time to re-bid that grant. Now some of the early childhood components will be tied in.

The second grant going before the Board is the Qualitative Compliance Information Grant under Part C. Jacquelyn explained that it is the evaluation component for *Early On*®, which includes statewide parent surveys and some site visits of all roles involved in *Early On*. The grant has just been renamed Qualitative Compliance Information.

Information Items

- Review of the proposed Inclusive Education Position Statement

Steve Wessels presented the document, approved by the SEAC last year, with some changes made in response to a Board request. He stressed it must convey that every student is a general education student first. Some students have special education services to complement the general education program in the amount and manner each student needs as is determined by the IEP.

Bob Opsommer reiterated that when this document was approved by the SEAC last year, he was the lone vote against approval. His organization feels that some of the protections in a document like this need to be a little stronger.

- Review of the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities

Steve Wessels explained that the term “unintended consequences” was replaced in the title and narrative with “effects,” a less inflammatory term. He stressed that the content is not changed from what the Policy subcommittee drafted. He explained the chart attached to the narrative illustrates how the subcommittee took their main ideas, synthesized them, then wrote the position paper.

Sue Rabidoux asked if the chart would be included with the narrative when presented to the Board. Steve indicated it would.

Jim Kubaiko suggested that some recommendations or ideas for the field should be developed as a next step.

Debs Roush indicated that speeding up the pace of learning will in fact hinder learning.

Steve Schwartz expressed concern that changing the title and not mentioning any positives makes it sound like the group sees only negative effects happening as a result of NCLB. Discussion on an appropriate title followed. Steve moved to empower Steve Wessels and Shari Krishnan to appropriately title the document taking the discussion into consideration. The motion carried.

Janice Fialka recommended it be noted in the document that it is a SEAC document.

Peggy McNeilly suggested that it be sent out as a memo.

Action Items

A. Motion to cancel July and August Committee of the Whole Meetings

Peggy McNeilly moved, seconded by Debs Roush, to cancel the July and August Committee of the Whole meetings. The motion carried.

B. Approval of the proposed Inclusive Education Position Statement

The recommendation for approval of proposed Inclusive Education Position Statement was considered. Janice Fialka moved to call a question. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried.

C. Approval of the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities

The recommendation for approval of the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities. Steve Schwartz moved to call a question. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried.

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education —Mark Larson reported that as special education faculty, the Institutions of Higher Education are continuing to look at revising the state rules on teacher preparation.

Michigan Department of Community Health —Doug Nurenberg – none

Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services – Lynn Boza reported that at the end of the month, the director of Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Bob Davis, is retiring. The new director, currently serving as deputy director, is Jaye Balthazar.

The final Transition Services Project Summer Institute is coming up July 13-16. It will be held in Grand Rapids.

Michigan Rehab may be embarking next year on a literacy initiative related to hidden disabilities.

Finally, Michigan Rehab now has an interagency agreement with Family Independence Agency. They are at the point of implementing the agreement. Their goal is to ensure that students held in juvenile detention facilities receive appropriate special education services where needed.

Family Independence Agency – Lee Martin – none

Committee Reports

Operations — Kathleen Clegg reported that prior to joining the SIP group, Operations was examining the bylaws to determine if there was anything preventing a restructuring of the subcommittees.

Policy — Steve Wessels reported that the Policy group started off the year working on priorities of the reauthorization of IDEA. As the year progressed, they worked more on the inclusive education document approved last year and developed the NCLB document reviewed today.

State Improvement Plan — Pam Mish reported that at the beginning of the year SIP focused on transition. Around December, the subcommittee started asking questions about why they were looking at transition when there was a CIMP group examining the same issue. This brought up bigger questions about the function and purpose of the SEAC subcommittees. Operations joined the SIP subcommittee a few months ago. At the May meeting, the two merged subcommittees came up with a motion to have the executive committee examine the subcommittee structure and possibly rename and/or restructure. Members of the executive committees of the SICC, the SEAC, and representatives from the CIMP Steering Committee will meet to discuss how those three groups can better coordinate efforts. Nothing is in writing yet; it will be addressed in more detail in the coming months.

Member Issues

Steve Schwartz addressed early intervention in reading with special education staff. Currently funding issues prevent such an effort. There could be some language added to the school aid bill that would allow for some pilot program money to be used toward special education staff doing early intervention for students not yet identified as special education. Steve also mentioned that Senator Nancy Cassis reintroduced the SEAC expansion bill.

Fran Loose shared a thank you note from Dr. Beardmore. She also pointed out the free material available on mediation services and copies of the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse newsletter.

Bob Opsommer mentioned a public hearing on family support subsidy on June 17.

Jill Jacobs and her husband started a parent advocacy group for children with special needs in Christian schools. It is a subgroup of the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools.

Cheryl Ervin mentioned the National Education Association (NEA) suggested amendments to NCLB are available at the NEA website (www.nea.org).

Larry Simpson said Shari and Jacquelyn represented the SEAC very well at the OSEP conference in May.

Transition / Recognition of SEAC 2002-2003

Jacquelyn Thompson recognized the chairperson and exiting members and conferred certificates.

Shari Krishnan announced that Mark Larson donated a Blackboard site hosted by Wayne State for SEAC to use. The site will be up in August. Email Mark (ad5772@wayne.edu) or Shari Krishnan (sharikrish@aol.com) to join.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

The meeting was adjourned to the executive committee debriefing.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of June 4, 2003, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Monica Butler, Kathleen Clegg, Ric Hogerheide, Shari Krishnan, Sandi Laham (facilitator), Fran Loose, Pam Mish, Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Jacquelyn Thompson, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels, Amanda Whitehead

Review of Today's Agenda

Shari Krishnan requested moving the action items up before the chairperson's report so that Roberta Stanley could hear the discussion of the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities. The group decided to address each item individually, first as an information item, then as an action item. The NCLB item will be addressed first.

Shari requested to move the chairperson's report after the subcommittee reports.

Shari asked Pam Mish if her subcommittee wrote up anything on changing the standing committees. Pam said she planned on summarizing the idea, state that next year is a transition year and that executive committee could further discuss the plan. She didn't feel there needed to be anything in writing yet.

Definition of autism is taken off as an information item and will be included in the State Department Report instead.

Future Agenda Development

Debs Roush requested that the reorganization of subcommittee structure should be done expediently rather than using the entire next year to transition. Pam Mish suggested having a meeting over the summer to look at what the standing committees and the work would be rather than waiting until October.

State Department Report

Jacquelyn Thompson mentioned that with the help of the State Improvement Grant (SIG), a leadership institute is being planned.

There was a successful initial meeting of the PD Collaborative Two with 7-10 member teams from seven ISDs.

Continuous Improvement Monitoring is becoming more focused and more intensely data driven. State rankings will be rolled out along with the rankings of school districts. Next year will be spent in data verification, analyzing the quality of the data submitted. The US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs is in a discovery phase in looking at data systems across the board; for instance, the practice of using the same terms (e.g. graduation) and defining them differently. Regardless of how different each state is, Michigan will be ranked. The focus needs to be on our own yearly progress. Ric Hogerheide commented that follow-through data showing what students do after graduation is more important than graduation rates. He also said that student tracking in and out of the district needs to improve.

Fran Loose pointed out that local control of graduation requirements results in the same student's accomplishments in four different districts potentially leading to four different possible outcomes.

Subcommittee Reports

Operations — Ginny Palubin was not present.

SIP — Pam Mish reported nothing additional.

Policy – Steve Wessels discussed the report No Child Left Behind (NCLB) for Students with Disabilities. He voiced concern about changing the title from “Unintended Consequences” to the “Effects of NCLB” as requested by Jacquelyn Thompson and Tom Watkins because the committee was addressing unintended consequences, not all effects. “Effects” is broader. Jacquelyn suggested bringing up the difficulty of titling the document when the presentation is made to the State Board of Education.

Shari Krishnan asked how to direct the conversation surrounding the NCLB motion. Steve said the committee had time via the listserv to discuss and add information. He thinks now is the time to either support it or give reasons for not supporting. If the document is not approved today, there is no document to forward to the Board later this month.

Finally, Steve noted the chart is an appendix, the narrative is the final product.

Steve pointed out the inclusive education position statement is supposed to say that students with special needs are students in general education first, then they have special education support above and beyond the general education as needed.

David Brock brought up that the new board member, Elizabeth Bauer, has invited two other groups to present documents on inclusion following the SEAC's presentation in June.

Miscellaneous

Shari Krishnan requested that during the Committee of the Whole, subcommittee reports should reflect accomplishments over the entire year.

David Brock said he will announce during Committee of the Whole that there will be another round of rule-making later this year. He also will mention the maintenance of fiscal effort memo sent recently regarding Part B funds. A presentation at the MAASE meeting will address and discuss the memo and help people calculate the maintenance of effort.

Jacquelyn Thompson updated the group on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 97's requirement of defined members on advisory committees. A grid, Rotation of Defined Membership, was passed out. The SEAC is off the scheduled rotation. Jacquelyn wanted to the group to know that for the '04-05 school year, if an organization is supposed to provide a defined member and their current appointed member does not fit the qualifications, we will ask them to recommend a defined member to replace the non-defined member.

Shari requested that she receive each committee's year-end reports. She then requested to adjourn until the after-lunch debriefing.

Post-Lunch Debrief

A. Retreat planning

The group scheduled executive committee meetings for Wednesday, July 23 (9:00 a.m. at WISD) and Friday, August 8 (9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined at July meeting).

Larry Simpson recommended not using the Sarvis facility because they cannot accommodate the group's needs. Weekdays was suggested as a possible location in addition to those Monica is already researching.

B. 2002-2003: What worked

- Leadership of members
- SEAC physical presence at Board meetings
- Clearly defined task for Policy subcommittee
- Using the listserv to keep up the communication
- The use of facilitation speeds up the process
- Saw SEAC's potential for quick turnaround of work, but that the device to facilitate is currently missing
- SEAC's willingness to look at restructuring for more cross-group communication
- Flexibility of groups to restructure (State Improvement Plan and Operations)

C. 2002-2003: Knowing what we know now, we wish...

- Establish the structure, purpose, and tasks for subcommittees before the year starts
- Plan the calendar at the beginning of the year to give direction to the subcommittees
- Plan how we can hit the ground running in the fall
- Have someone determine what issues SEAC can focus on in the time allotted
- Label emails coming over the listserv in a consistent manner so that presorting can be done

- Determine how we place information on the listserv to avoid occurrences like what happened with the NCLB document this past month
- Everyone is on the same page so work does not have to be repeated; what language should we use and why?

D. Moving forward

- Continue communication, providing information, make use of the Blackboard site
- Everyone has internet access so they can get to the information posted
- Have some sort of contact list, more than one way to contact people (avoid difficulty associated with snow day meeting cancellation, for example)

E. Supporting one another

- Dialogue, not debate

F. NCLB Unintended Consequences title – Shari Krishnan / Steve Wessels

Addressing the Question: What are SEAC's current concerns pertaining to NCLB for students with disabilities